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June 2009 Disaster Behavior Health Newsletter

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

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DISASTER BEHAVIOR HEALTH NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 No. 5: June 2009

Franklin & Somerset Trainings Postponed

Both trainings have been postponed until the fall. We are hoping to build full enrollment for September 24-25 in Skowhegan and October 7-8 in Farmington. Please help spread the word and recruit new volunteers for the team! Our goal is to have registered volunteers in each Maine county who can respond to local community disasters. To encourage full registration, we are planning to schedule IS-100 & IS-700a shortly after each two-day training. Emergency Management Directors encourage the presence of disaster behavioral health in their counties and support the post training IS course offerings.

Stay Informed
On
H1N1 in Maine!

See the CDC website:

www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/swine-flu-2009.shtml

Consortium Growing Steadily

The State Disaster Behavioral Health Consortium continues to grow. Eighteen states are now members, signifying a desire to develop a stronger more unified voice with a presence in national forums. The consortium is developing a website where states can contribute resources for the use of all consortium members. The states of Pennsylvania, New York and most recently New Jersey have each held a forum to promote sharing of resources, networking and collaboration.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Participate in Knox County Full Scale Drill

Disaster Behavioral Health is included in the full scale drill being planned in Knox County for October 17th. DBH volunteers will be setting up and manning the Family Assistance Center at Pen Bay Hospital as well as working in the field as needed. This will be an excellent opportunity to practice skills and put to use the training you've had. **SAVE THE DATE!** We will work collaboratively with the American Red Cross (Midcoast Chapter) volunteers who will be manning an off-site shelter and assistance center. We want to take advantage of opportunities for full-scale drill participation because the planning and number of people involved exceeds our capacity for our own drills. EMA Director Ray Sisk has included disaster behavioral health in every aspect of the planning, so let's make a good showing! We are applying for CEU's. The formal drill will be completed by 12:30 p.m., but plan to stay a while for the post drill review debrief and barbeque lunch. More details will follow and we will schedule a pre-exercise telephone conference to review our duties. Don't miss out on this!

Upcoming DBH Events!

- ♦ **Sept 24-25, 2009:** Somerset Training, Skowhegan
- ♦ **October 7-8, 2009:** Franklin Training, Farmington
- ♦ **October 17, 2009:** Knox Cty Drill (8:00-2 pm), Rockport

**Watch for
Psychological
First Aid
Training to be
offered
this Fall!**

MORE NEWS AND RESOURCES FOR DISASTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- See <http://www.disasterprepped.com> for good materials on preparedness and planning.
- Recommended reading: <http://www.miller-mccune/health/katrina-diaster-mental-health>, *What Katrina Taught Us About Disaster Mental Health*.
- HAN Coordinator Bill Jenkins will be leaving that post to become the CDC's Pan Flu Coordinator.
- The 2009 Northeast/Mid Atlantic Consortium (now State Disaster Behavioral Health Consortium) Summit will be held in Annapolis, Maryland, September 22 -24, 2009. Pam will attend and include news from other states in the next newsletter.

Psychological First Aid

Can be provided by anyone working in an emergency setting!

- *Helps victims focus on immediate needs*
- *Helps calm; reduces stress reactions*
- *Offers practical, task-oriented support*

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Questions or comments? E-mail us at Pamela.Holland@maine.gov